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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, I have the honour to enclose the Declaration of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries adopted at the meeting held on 24 September 1996 at United Nations Headquarters to celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 27, 71, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 145 and 159, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Julio LONDOÑO PAREDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, issued on 24 September 1996 on the occasion of the celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Movement

The heads of State or Government, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the non-aligned countries who met in New York on the occasion of the celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at the Belgrade Conference in 1961, paid homage to the founding fathers for the courage, vision, leadership and commitment they showed, which inspired the historic decision leading to the creation of the Movement.

They reaffirmed that the philosophy of non-alignment and its main principles maintained their full validity, and that, under the current circumstances, the Movement constituted today more than ever the ideal forum to continue to coordinate the interests and positions of the non-aligned countries in the international arena. They declared their firm commitment that the Movement should continue to lead the developing countries in negotiations and in international forums.

They emphasized that the activities of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries would continue to be based on the principle of solidarity and that its action would be inspired by the legacy from the struggle against colonialism and racism, the defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the full respect and promotion of international law, abstention from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the peaceful settlement of disputes. They reaffirmed the right of self-determination of all peoples, taking into account the particular situation of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation. They also called upon the international community to resist jointly all new modalities of intervention, economic coercion and other measures of an extraterritorial character that currently threaten the non-aligned countries.

They affirmed that the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, faithful to its tradition of renewing itself according to the needs demanded by changes in international relations, would continue to promote collective action with the purpose of extending its role and participation in world affairs; it would reinforce the means and broaden the issues of consultation with other countries.

They declared that during the next century, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in accordance with the Final Document of the Cartagena Summit, would promote, with the same determination as in the present, economic and social development, the eradication of poverty, the solution to the debt problem, the fight against international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and nuclear disarmament.

They reaffirmed that the Movement would continue to promote the restructuring, revitalization and democratization of the United Nations based on the principles contained in its Charter, as well as the restructuring of the international financial system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, all on the basis of the principle of the sovereign equality of States.

They urged all members of the international community to eradicate from the face of the earth all imperial, hegemonic and aggressive policies and to contribute to the construction of a democratic system of international relations that responds to the aspirations for development, peace, equality and justice of the countries and peoples of the globe.